

Intersection Observation Project



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I chose to observe the intersection of Winter Street Extension and Highland Street because it is a popular four-way intersection controlled by stop signs. Many people travel through this intersection on a daily basis, including pedestrians from the elementary school up the road. I thought it would be interesting to observe how people behaved at this intersection.

I expected some people to be irresponsible drivers, but I never expected that so many people would make careless, rolling stops, and even blatantly ignore the stop signs. Even though not many people forgot their directional, it was still alarming to see that people didn't use it.

Certainly, both sessions of observation showed similar patterns, though more people passed through the intersection during the first session than during the second.

Alarmed by how many people did not stop and did incomplete, rolling stops, I will take what I learned to heart as I go through intersections, always watching people and never expecting them to make a complete stop. I will also watch peoples' lane positions to try to judge whether or not they will turn, because their directional alone can not always be counted on.

Day One

Intersection Of Winter St. Ext. And Highland St.

Number Of Cars	75
Number That Stopped Completely	30
Number That Did A Rolling Stop	42
Number That Did Not Stop	3
Number Using A Directional	30
Number Not Using A Directional	12

3:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.

12/23/08

Sunny sky!

Line of sight restrictions included telephone poles, snow banks, newspaper dispensers, houses, parked cars, and moving cars.

Some cars parked along the side of the road served as path or travel restrictions.



Day Two

Intersection Of Winter St. Ext. And Highland St.

Number Of Cars	44
Number That Stopped Completely	22
Number That Did A Rolling Stop	19
Number That Did Not Stop	3
Number Using A Directional	32
Number Not Using A Directional	12

Line Of Sight
Restrictions: Telephone
poles, snow banks,
newspaper dispensers,
houses, parked cars,
and moving cars.

Again, parked cars
served as path of travel
restrictions.

12:00 p.m. – 12:15 p.m.

12/26/08

Slightly overcast.



I chose the intersection of Gilford Ave. and Union Ave. because it is a place with four-way traffic lights that is busy practically every time of the day. It was a good place to observe literally hundreds of drivers making good and bad decisions. I saw some terrifying things here, like one man who changed lanes without a directional within 100 feet of a traffic light, then proceeded to make an illegal left turn on red without even stopping, and again with no directional. Clearly, this man had some issues of his own to deal with. And clearly, this alerted me that I should always, always pay attention to people passing through an intersection.

Day One

Intersection Of Gilford Ave. And Union Ave.

Number Of Cars	166
Number Making A Legal Staggered Stop	102
Number Making An Illegal Stop	57
Number That Did Not Stop	7
Number Using A Directional	130
Number Not Using A Directional	36
Number Making A Legal Right On Red	45
Number Making An Illegal Right On Red	12

3:30 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.

12/23/08

Sunny!

Some line of sight restrictions included telephone poles, light poles, moving cars, and parked cars, which also served as path of travel restrictions.



Day Two

Intersection Of Gilford Ave. And Union Ave.

Number Of Cars	107
Number Making A Legal Staggered Stop	94
Number Making An Illegal Stop	6
Number That Did Not Stop	7
Number Using A Directional	55
Number Not Using A Directional	52
Number Making A Legal Right On Red	32
Number Making An Illegal Right On Red	10

11:30 p.m. – 11:45 p.m.

12/26/08

Slightly Overcast

Some line of sight restrictions included telephone poles, light poles, moving cars, and parked cars, which also served as path of travel restrictions.

